Shirogane no Ou

Fenrir Craft

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Prologue
THE HOLY ZEPHIL EMPIRE.
Zephil
Eldre
Lexro
Platness
Eltan
Ignus
Yaus
Ensel
Yuelf
IT'S A MAJOR POWER THAT WAS FOUNDED OVER 800 YEARS AGO.
THE CURRENT EMPEROR IS THE 26TH, DIECK ARCADO ZEPHIL.
HE TOOK THE THRONE FIVE YEARS AGO. THREE YEARS LATER HE CONQUERED LOGOS, AND LAST YEAR HE TOOK CONTROL OF LEDIA.
HE HAS NOW SEIZED ALMOST THE ENTIRE NORTHERN CONTINENT.
#06 Thorns of Ice

...SO
NOW HE'S SET HIS EYES ON THE SOUTH.
TEN YEARS AGO,
WHEN THE CURRENT EMPEROR WAS STILL THE CROWN PRINCE,
IT SEEMS THERE WAS A FAILED ASSASSI-NATION ATTEMPT AGAINST HIM BY THE SECOND PRINCE —
ONE BROTHER TRIED TO KILL THE OTHER?
IT SEEMS THEY HAD DIFFERENT MOTHERS.
TRULY, MONARCHIES ARE FRIGHTENING〰〰
AP

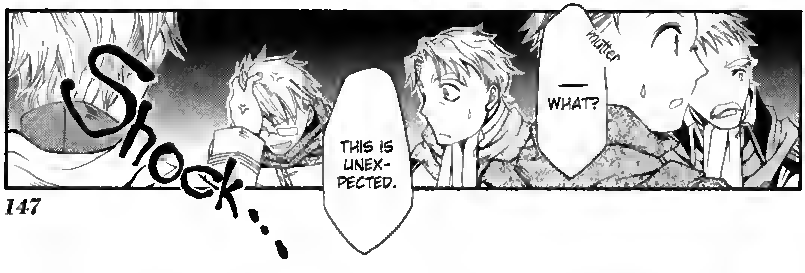
WE HAVE BLOODSHED EVERY TIME AS WELL. IT'S NOT SO DIFFERENT.
ISN'T THAT WHAT THE PROOF OF THE KING IS FOR?
THE SECOND PRINCE DIED WHILE TRYING TO ESCAPE—
WITHOUT ANY OTHER SIBLINGS TO LAY CLAIM TO THE THRONE,
THE EMPEROR'S POSITION IS ABSOLUTE.
glare
...AND THE INTRUDERS WHO YOUR GUARD KILLED THE OTHER DAY
WERE WEARING TAGS FROM THE ZEPHIL ARMY.
Shock
WHAT...!?
ZEPHIL!?
IS THAT TRUE!?

BUT THE INTRUDERS WE'VE HAD BEFORE ALL TURNED OUT TO BE VAGABONDS AND TRAMPS...
AREN'T YOU BEING PARANOID?
What's disease
haa
NO HELPING IT. IT'S BEEN LIKE 100 YEARS SINCE THE LAST INVASION.
THEN SURELY THE KING'S DISAPPEARANCE IS ALSO TIED TO ZEPHIL?
ISN'T THAT JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS?
BUT IF THEY TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HIS ABSENCE TO LAUNCH THAT SURPRISE ATTACK —
Clench
REGARDLESS, IT'S TRUE THAT ZEPHIL'S RATS MANAGED TO GET IN.
HOW ARE OUR DEFENSES?
DIDN'T SOMEONE SUSPICIOUS ESCAPE LAST WEEK, AS WELL?
SIR.
WE HAVE PATROLS EVERYWHERE..
Cla
ck
THEN THE CASTLE SHOULDN'T BE BREACHED, CORRECT?
...I APOLOGIZE.

SO IN POINT OF FACT, WOULDN'T YOU SAY THEY'RE DOING A GOOD JOB?
EVEN WITH ALL THOSE PEOPLE UNDER THAT EXTREME PRESSURE, NO ONE WAS HARMED.
THE GUARDS PROTECTED YOU DURING THE CORONATION CEREMONY.
I VERIFIED EVERYONE'S BACKGROUND ONCE AGAIN.
THERE'S NO ONE WITH A QUESTIONABLE PAST
BUT COULD WE .. HAVE A TRAITOR?
IF THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE LIKE COUGAR —
AFTER THAT INCIDENT —
...AMONG THE IMPERIAL GUARDS.

A QUES-
TIONABLE
PAST——…
UH.
…YOU
KNOW…
Oh!
Stare

IT'LL GET BAD ENOUGH THAT YOU HAVE TO STICK UP FOR HIM.
OH.
SO.
SHOW YOUR INNOCENCE THROUGH YOUR OWN ACTIONS.
GOT IT?


Shock...
THIS IS UNEXPECTED.
mutter
—
WHAT?

whisper
IS THE KING ALSO SUSPICIOUS OF HIM?
whisper
CAN THAT BE?
HE'S JUST BEING IMPARTIAL
...AS YOU WISH.
Knock
Knock

SILENCE
rattle rattle rustle
rustle
rustle
...?
I'M COMING IN.
clack
—YOUR MAJESTY?
.....!
flutter

BALFORD!!
DUK

IT'S YOUR FAULT.
I WANT TO BELIEVE THAT, BUT—
IF WE TALK TO THEM, THEY'LL UNDER-STAND—
NO!!
BAL!? NO! WHY...
Again.
I'll lose someone again...!!
...YOUR MAJESTY!!

Wham
LORD SHIROGANE !?
YE
OH!
OW WW WW WW!
WHAT HAP-PENED!?
WHERE IS THE KING!?
flap flap tremble
IF YOU WANT THE KING, HE SNUCK OFF TO THE KITCHEN FOR A NIGHTCAP.
AND ALSO.
tremble tremble
AH.
flap
flap
GET YOUR FOOT OFF MY TAIL, YOU IDIOT!!

I—
I'M SORRY!
Jump!
I THOUGHT SOMETHING HAPPENED...
ARE .. YOU OK?
...YES, BUT...
Geez!
YOU'RE BEING PARANOID, EVEN IF YOU ARE HIS GUARD.
WITH THIS ROOM A MESS AND THE KING MISSING—
...ANYONE WOULD THINK OF THE WORST CASE SCENARIO.
.....
...YOU'RE RIGHT. PLUS—
I'M ON THE FLOOR.
YES .. WHY ARE YOU ON THE FLOOR?

THE WIND SCATTERED THE PAPERS ALL AROUND, SO I WAS GOING TO CLEAN THEM UP.
So leave it open
BECAUSE THE KING WENT OUT THE WINDOW.
FLOP
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE THE KING LEFT?
IF TOO LONG HAS PASSED—
HM?
VOICES...
BECAUSE THE WIND FLUNG OPEN THE WINDOW...?
SWOOP
RIGHT EYE?
HE'S NOT A KID. HE'LL BE FINE.
HE SHOULD BE ON HIS WAY BACK NOW
RUSH
...YES, BUT...

WE STILL HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE ROUTE THE INTRUDERS...
TOOK...
JOLT
WHAT'S WRONG?
crumple
Rustle rustle
NO, IT'S NOTHING.
Rus
I WAS
tle
HARDING A LITTLE, WASN'T I?

Sneak
AND WHEN YOU'VE GOT A MASTER WHO WANTS TO HEAD STRAIGHT INTO DANGER...
...NO, IT'S FINE.
I MUST BE JUMPY BECAUSE OF THE MULTIPLE INTRUSIONS.
WELL, NO HELPING THAT.
ANY SECOND NOW HE'LL BE AT THE WINDOW GOING, "WHOA! ♡" WORRYING ALL THE TIME ISN'T GOOD FOR YOU.
Sneak
Sneak
Slide
Slide
Shit
...HE NOTICED ME.
...ARE YOU OK?
YES?

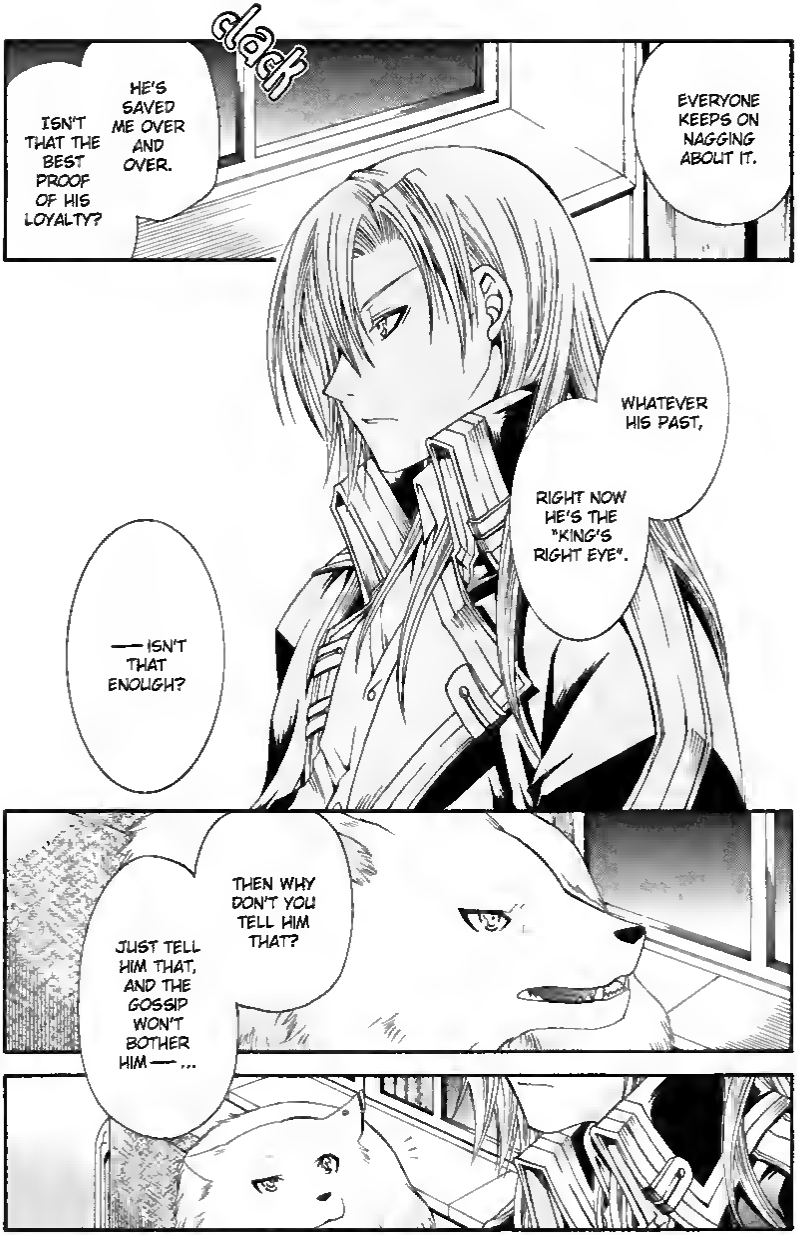
YOU LOOK PALE.
THE DISTRUST MUST WEIGH ON YOU EVEN MORE THAN THE PRESSURE OF BEING HIS BODYGUARD. AREN'T YOU WORN OUT?
NO, WELL...
!
...A LITTLE...

--Slide
.....
YOUR BACK-GROUND IS THE EXCUSE.
IN ACTUALITY THEY JUST DON'T LIKE THAT A NEW GUY WAS GIVEN AN IMPORTANT POST.
haa
ZEPHIL'S SUCH A BIG DEAL
THAT YOU'RE GETTING THE SPILL-OVER.
tap
WOULDN'T IT JUST BE BETTER TO SPEAK UP? YOU COULD LIE IF YOU NEED TO.
...NO, I...
flip
YOU KNOW, NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE,
ME AND THE KING AND PROBABLY WOLF
WILL BE OK WITH IT, YOU KNOW?

!
I curse
STILL—
I DON'T WANT TO SAY IT.
...I CAN'T SAY IT,
CAN I?

IT'S LATE ALREADY.
DID YOU COME TO SAY GOOD-NIGHT?
Oh.
I'LL PASS IT ON. YOU CAN GO.
BUT——
Jolt
YOU'RE TIRED OUT, RIGHT? REST UP FOR TONIGHT.
flap
IT'S HIS OWN DAMN FAULT FOR NOT COMING BACK.
.....
...THEN...
PLEASE EXCUSE ME
clack

Simple.
HEY, COME ON OUT, YOU IDIOT KING.
Tap
TAKE A LOOK. WHAT YOU SAID TODAY COMPLETELY WRECKED HIM.
I MEAN, HE DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE YOU WERE THERE.
LIKE HELL.
WOLF
JUST CHEWED ME OUT OVER IT.
DON'T BRING UP THE COUNCIL SESSION
What were you thinking, saying that!?
But surely there was a better way to say it!
I know I said it wasn't good to cover for him,
Huh? Drinking?
Cut the bullshit!
What're you doing ...?
You're not talking?
Explain yourself...
Huh?
You know...
And what did you mean by "world's disease is Don't make fun of me!
SHADDUP.
WELL, OF COURSE.


clack
EVERYONE KEEPS ON NAGGING ABOUT IT.
HE'S SAVED ME OVER AND OVER.
ISN'T THAT THE BEST PROOF OF HIS LOYALTY?
WHATEVER HIS PAST,
RIGHT NOW HE'S THE "KING'S RIGHT EYE".
—— ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?
THEN WHY DON'T YOU TELL HIM THAT?
JUST TELL HIM THAT, AND THE GOSSIP WON'T BOTHER HIM ——...

Jolt
WHAT——?
IS IT TOO EMBARRASSING FOR YOU TO SAY THAT TO HIM FACE TO FACE?
HARDLY.
AFTER WOLF CAUGHT ME AND MADE ME LATE, YOU MADE IT HARD FOR ME TO COME OUT.
Peh.
YOUR CIGARETTE'S BACKWARDS.
QUIT BLAMING OTHER PEOPLE AND FOLLOW THROUGH.
I SAID IT THE OTHER DAY, TOO. IF YOU DON'T SPEAK UP, HE WON'T UNDERSTAND.
SHADDUP, I GET IT ALREADY.
Yaaawn
LET'S GO TO SLEEP? THAT COUNCIL SESSION WORE ME OUT.
.....

burden
two
are you carrying?
NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE,
WE'LL BE OK WITH IT, YOU KNOW?
!
JUST WHAT —
tap
— MY NOW.

SLIDE
WASN'T THAT FAST.
...YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S USING THE "CROWN" AS A GOFER.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE BUSY.
HOW ABOUT YOU DO IT PROFESSIONALLY? THOSE ARGOS MESSENGERS WILL HAVE A FIT.
FWIP!
WHAT A PAIN. I WON'T BE DOING THIS AGAIN.
Slide
Slap
Slide

RAYVA STAIN'S "BRINGER".
ITS OWNER IS THE BODY-GUARD FOR THE SECOND PRINCE OF THE HOLY ZEPHIL EMPIRE...
BALFORD TREY ADONIS.
HE AND THE SECOND PRINCE FLED AFTER THE FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT OF THE CROWN PRINCE.
—— HIS WHERE-ABOUTS AFTER THAT ARE UN-KNOWN...
flap..
HOLD IT!
THAT MEANS —— !